

Message Text

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S E C R E T SEOUL 6145

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, KS, JA

SUBJECT: GOJ POSITION ON KIM TAE-CHUNG AFFAIR

REF: TOKYO 11715

1. ROKG ALREADY AWARE OF GOJ POSITION SET FORTH REFTEL, WITH EXCEPTION THAT GOJ HAS BEEN INSISTING THAT KIM TAE-CHUNG BE RETURNED TO JAPAN AS PART OF DEALING WITH CASE ALONG LINES QUOTE RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL FORMULA END QUOTE. WHAT IS PRESENT JAPANESE POSITION ON KIM'S RETURN? THIS IS A CRUCIAL QUESTION CONSIDERING EMPHASIS JAPANESE HAVE PUT ON IT BOTH IN REGARD TO INVESTIGATION OF CASE AND ULTIMATE SOLUTION.

2. WE SEE NO PROBLEM IN HAVING JAPANESE MAKE FIRST APPROACH WITH THEIR NEW FORMULA, IF IT IS NEW. THEY HAVE MANY GOOD CHANNELS. I WOULD PROPOSE MAKING A PARALLEL EXPLANATION OF JAPANESE POSITION, WITHOUT BEING PUT IN POSITION OF RUNNING INTERFERENCE FOR JAPANESE, OR ASSOCIATING OURSELVES TOO CLOSELY WITH THEIR PROBLEM AND THEIR PRESENT SOLUTION FOR IT. I COULD MAKE IT CLEAR, AFTER JAPANESE HAVE MADE THEIR POSITION KNOWN, THAT WE CONSIDER ITS GENERAL FRAMEWORK REASONABLE.

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3. WE WISH ALSO TO POINT OUT THAT JAPANESE DO NOT MAKE CLEAR WHAT FACTS THEY EXPECT TO BE MADE KNOWN BY ROKG AND EXACTLY WHO AND HOW MANY ARE TO BE PUNISHED. THEY SPEAK ONLY OF KIM TONG-UN, BUT

I PRESUME THEY WOULD ALSO INCLUDE SOME OTHERS WHO
TOOK PART IN ACTUAL ABDUCTION. TOKYO PLEASE CLARIFY.

4. WE DO NOT THINK FACT OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S
KIM'S DEPARTURE IS IMPORTANT IN THIS MATTER. IF
GOJ PROPOSAL APPEALS TO ROKG, COMMUNICATION WILL
BE EASY. USHIROKU'S DIFFICULTY IN MEETING WITH PRIME
MINISTER HAS DERIVED FROM GAP BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES'
POSITION. HE SHOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTY IN GETTING
WORD THROUGH IF HE HAS SOMETHING NEW TO SAY.

5. AS I HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, IN MY MANY
CONVERSATIONS WITH ROKG LEADERS I HAVE EMPHASIZED
SERIOUSNESS JAPANESE REACTION AND NEED FOR EARLY
AND REASONABLE SOLUTION RECOGNIZING JAPANESE NEEDS.
I HAVE KEPT USHIROKU INFORMED OF THESE CONVERSATIONS.

6. IN ANTICIPATION JAPANESE APPROACH ALONG
LINES REFTTEL, AS CLARIFIED BY ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
RAISED IN THIS TELEGRAM, I WILL SUGGEST TO PRIME
MINISTER KIM THAT HE ARRANGE TO SEE USHIROKU SOON.
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